

SEPTEMBER 20TH MEETING TO FOCUS ON DUTCHESS COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL WAR WITH ENCAMPMENT AT ELMENDORPH

FALL 1997

The first meeting of the fall season will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 20th in the midst of an authentic reenactment of a Civil War encampment in and around the Elmendorph Inn. The Historical Society has invited the members of the **150th New York State Volunteer Infantry Regiment** to set up camp and demonstrate the drills, inspections, activities and equipment used by the Regiment, which was recruited in Dutchess County and served throughout the War.

The encampment will begin Friday evening when the first tents will be erected and continue until 4 p.m. on Sunday. During that time all the activities of a military encampment will be carried out. Officers will be quartered in the tap room of the Inn and costumed members of The Hudson Valley Ladies Aid Society will prepare meals in the Elmendorph's historic kitchen, tend the wounded and assist the men as the Ladies Aid Society did during the War.

The event will be a feature of Red Hook's annual Hardscrabble Day, a very busy day in the Village. Tom LeGrand has generously agreed to allow Historical Society members to park in the large lot behind the Red Hook Business Park, just north of the Red Hook IGA and a short walk from the Elmendorph Inn. Shuttle buses will be



available with stops at various locations throughout the Village.

The Historical Society meeting will take place at 2 p.m. in the South Room of the Elmendorph Inn. After a brief business meeting, an officer of the "Dutchess County Regiment" will talk about it and the organization which reenacts moments in the history of the Civil War Veterans of Dutchess County; he will be available to answer questions. The encampment and meeting will take place rain or shine. If you have any questions please call 758-2923.

[Editor's note: see pages 5-6 for excerpts from a local soldier's Civil War diary.]

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KEYBOARD

Barbara Bielenberg

This summer Bob and I travelled to Michigan to attend family reunions and learn more about our own families' histories from older relatives. We learned that my family's hometown, Ionia, was settled by New Yorkers from Herkimer and so we stopped in that Mohawk Valley town on our way home. The Herkimer Historical Society is headquartered in a great old Victorian building across from the courthouse. I was directed up a long flight of stairs to a large high-ceilinged room. The walls were lined with bookshelves and old green metal files. A man and two women were studying papers and maps spread out on a long oak table in the middle of the room, but they greeted us warmly and in answer to our inquiry soon had us [continued on page 2]

sitting at an old desk with a stack of cards and a card file to look through.

Within minutes I had taken my family tree back two more generations and learned that the first of the line in this country had come to Herkimer from Germany as a tanner and was the first in the community to own a piano. His wife's father and brother had narrowly escaped being scalped by hiding in the water under the wheel of the grist mill they were operating when Indians attacked and burned it, killing everyone within. So much history is stored in that room, I can't wait to go back!

What about Red Hook's history? Right now I have *six inquiries* from people all over the country wanting to know more about *their* ancestors who lived *here*. Somehow we'll answer them but I can't wait till we can take the plastic shrouds off our file cabinet and our shelves and boxes and spread out in our new Archive Center on the second floor of *our* great old building. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have renewed your memberships, and especially to those who have added a donation. And thanks also to those of you who have had enough faith in our Archive Center to entrust your precious family photographs and documents to us. With your help we'll make it happen--soon!

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS

We are very grateful to our members for the following important additions to our collections:

- Original **1817 reprint of a talk by Egbert Benson** on the Indian, Dutch and English origins of Hudson Valley place names. **Donated by J. Winthrop Aldrich in memory of Rosemary Coons.**
- Four cartons of **historic material collected by Rosemary Coons.** This is being reviewed for content and shared with the Friends of Elmendorph archives, as appropriate. **Donated by Richard Coons.**
- **Wood-and-glass display case** from the roadside stand opened in 1929 by Mr. and Mrs. Howard T. Delanoy beside the new Route-9 bypass around Upper Red Hook. **Donated by Howard (Sid) Delanoy.** The case is already in use in the South Room of the Elmendorph Inn.
- Original **photographs of Red Hook High School students c. 1914 and the Championship Basketball Team 1916-17** and two **clippings about the 1906 Robert Chanler baseball team.** **Donated by Robert Ludwig in memory of his uncle, Leonard Schutte,** who was bat boy for the baseball team and managed the basketball champions.
- Collection of original **documents and photographs,** including a photograph taken at the 40th Anniversary Party of the Historical Club founded in 1901; four charter members are featured: Mrs. Harry Arnold, Miss Mary E. Kerley, Mrs. Edwin K. Losee and Miss Jennie Fulton. Also in the donation are two shares in the Red Hook Academy issued to Ephriam and John Fulton on Dec. 26, 1822; a certificate for two shares in the Red Hook Creamery issued to John P. Fulton in 1890; and numerous other items related to Red Hook history. **Donated by Harriet Norton,** who also donated to the Friends of Elmendorph a **green painted Windsor Chair** which was used on the porch of the Fulton farm.
- **Linda Keeling** painstakingly photocopied the important 375-page **History of Whalesback** by **Kirtley B. Lewis,** owned by St. John's Church, Upper Red Hook. Linda has also provided **photo documentation of the unrestored second floor of the Elmendorph Inn,** future home of the Historical Society.

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Have you renewed your membership for 1997-98? Please check date on your address label and renew NOW!

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HERITAGE AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING

Fred Briggs was honored with a **Heritage Award for Senior Leadership** at the annual dinner meeting held at the Elmendorph Inn on Tuesday evening, June 17th, in recognition of his generosity in sharing his collection of historic postcards and memorabilia of the area with individual researchers and at public gatherings. Carol Brener, Chairperson of the Awards Committee, referred to Fred as Mr. History of Red Hook, and expressed the community's gratitude for the remarkable historic resource his collection represents.

An **Environmental Heritage Award** was given to **Beverly Riley** for her leadership of the Merchants' Committee of the Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce in its efforts to beautify and revitalize the business area of the Village of Red Hook. **Gloria Cigolini** was presented with an **Artistic Heritage Award** for her Red Hook Mural Project which portrays colorful scenes of local history on otherwise vacant walls of the Village.

Scott McKee, Land Project Manager of **Scenic Hudson** accepted an **Architectural Heritage Award** presented to the organization for spearheading the creation of Red Hook's popular Poets Walk Romantic Landscape Park overlooking the Hudson River. The visual integrity of the Park has been protected by conservation easements on 800 acres of adjoining land. A **Heritage Award for Written Work** was awarded to **Agnes Losee Clark** whose published memoir *Dutchess County Days* portrays her childhood in Upper Red Hook where her father, Dr. E. K. Losee served the community as physician. Now in her 90s, Mrs. Clark continues to write at her home in Santa Barbara (CA). Red Hook High School graduating senior **Sarah Conklin** was this year's recipient of the Historical Society's cash prize for excellence in social history.

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NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At the Annual Meeting held June 17th, the following trustees were elected to serve three-year terms: President, Barbara Bielenberg; Vice President, Larry Thetford; Treasurer, Mary Cioffi; Secretaries, Nancy Hetzler and Carol Brener.

Committee Chairpersons are: Program, Thomas Cordier; Hospitality, Nancy Hetzler; School Programs, Catherine Dewsnap; Archives, Marlene Hejnal and Linda Keeling; Restoration, Larry Thetford; Design/Equipment, Mirko Gabler; Fundraising, Barbara Bielenberg.

We encourage all our members to become involved on a one-time or continuing basis. Please call 758-2923 or 758-5887 to volunteer.

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At your A&P FOOD STORE

Eight O'Clock Coffee	2 1 lb. bags	25¢
Red Circle Coffee	2 1 lb. bags	29¢
Bokar Coffee	2 1 lb. bags	33¢
Bread - SoftTwist	2 1 lb. 4 oz loaves	15¢

From an advertisement in a program for "Red Hook's Gay Nineties' Revue," sponsored by the P.T.A. of Red Hook Central School c. 1939. The review was directed by Mrs. George W. Aucock. The Music Director was Louis Rhynders. Program donated by **Harriet Norton**.

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REMEMBERING TIVOLI (and Rose Hill)

At our April meeting, **Richard Wiles** painted a tumultuous picture of life in 19th- and early-20th-century Tivoli, quoting from recently discovered court records and newspaper accounts. Recorded are suits for back wages, and stealing eggs. A Mr. Outwater sued someone for cutting his hay too late, causing it to rot. In 1916 a man was arrested for throwing a log at his girlfriend. He was found guilty and fined \$5.00. More serious crimes, such as the abduction of a 15-year-old girl were referred to Poughkeepsie's Court.

Ethnic rivalries developed between neighboring towns. An 1871 Poughkeepsie headline read "Stoned to Death in Tivoli": William Marley, aged 18, was standing with others in front of Lasher's store when a man struck him in the head with a rock, saying he "didn't like Irishmen." The coroner found his skull was fractured by the blow; a witness blamed the incident on "the Germantown toughs." While the investigation continued, mourners accompanied Marley's body to Saugerties for burial. According to Wiles, "the Germantown toughs" lingered in Tivoli, awaiting their return, but on the way back the ferry sank, preventing further altercations.

But Wiles and members of the audience left us with a much more positive image of the community than these lurid tales convey. A woman recalled that when she was growing up, there were three grocery stores, two barber shops, two meat markets and "up on the North Road Gordy Fingar had a general store and his brother Hopper had a hardware. Wally Moore had a 5-and-10¢ store where the Mexican restaurant is now and there were movies at the Masonic Hall on Wednesday and Saturday." People came from all over to attend the popular church suppers. **Claude Potts** recalled that there were also three or four restaurant/bars in the village and that eight to ten passenger trains a day stopped in Tivoli and were met by taxis for the trip up the hill. In those days, bags of mail were thrown off the trains and taken to the Tivoli post office on Friendship Street or up the hill to the Madalin post office.

Wiles's mention of Rose Hill, the estate built by John Watts dePeyster on a bluff overlooking the Hudson and which became a summer camp for the Leake & Watts Orphan Home in Yonkers after his death in 1896, elicited many memories from Red Hook resident **Louise Schwed**. She resided at Leake & Watts from 1939-1942 and first came to Tivoli in the back of an open truck full of children. "It probably would be like a cattle car, and wouldn't be allowed now, but it was fun!" On the way up, they stopped at an apple farm and loaded up on apples. At first the boys and girls came separately but later they came up together "which made it much more interesting."

The counselors who cared for the children in Yonkers traveled to Tivoli with them and planned "fantastic activities." The stream which runs through the property was dammed to create a swimming pool but the children liked to hike down to the Hudson and swim in the river. One hot day, while camping on Madalin Island, the girls decided to go skinny-dipping. Only one tall, thin girl had a bathing suit. When a boat came by and hung around watching, the tall girl climbed out, hid behind a big rock, undressed and threw her suit out into the water. "One by one all these sizes of us came out with this one bathing suit on and they finally gave up and went away." Many years later Louise went back to the Island with her son and daughter but never could find the big rock of her memory.

The campers put on plays and had boxing matches and there were campfires in the woods with hot dogs and marshmallows. One of the counselors was a great storyteller: "they would scare the bejabbers out of you with a terrible story and the boys would make it a point to get out first" and scare the girls as they walked home through the woods. A great treat was the walk to the movie show at the Masonic Hall, which took them through two stone pillars on Woods Road, guarded by a gatehouse, through farmland, past horses and there were blueberries to pick along the way. According to Schwed "Leake & Watts was not like the orphanage in the play *Annie*. It was delightful. They were so good to us. We were worse to them than they were to us!"

During World War II Rose Hill provided housing for the Women's Land Army of the U.S. Crop Corps. **Claude Potts** said that during the war there was a shortage of farm laborers, so a co-op of farmers was formed to recruit "farmerettes" from New York City. "Dr. and Mrs. Churchill from Briarcliff Manor were in charge of it most of the time. We had quite a few girls that came up from Hunter College . . . also some students from Cooper Union and other students from the New York City area. They would work from mid May until the crops were harvested in the fall, and then the camp closed down until the following

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year. . . They were good workers, very conscientious. And between the war effort and everything, they would do a lot more than people would do today. During the war we would have very erratic weather, lots of rain, and those girls would come in shorts and take off their shoes and pick beans in mud up to the knees. You wouldn't get anybody to do that today!"

According to Wiles, the Catholic Workers, founded by Dorothy Day, bought Rose Hill in 1964. They ran it from 1964 until 1978 when it proved too large a property to maintain and too far from their base of operations in Manhattan. "One of the interesting things about Dorothy Day was that she could have had non-tax status but she didn't believe in private property and she paid \$4,000 in taxes to Red Hook and Tivoli all those years." Rose Hill is once again in private hands and is undergoing restoration.

[Editor's note: For more information about Tivoli's history, see *Tivoli Revisited, A Social History* by Richard C. Wiles, available at Village Books in Tivoli. Wiles will talk about "The dePeysters, Tivoli's eccentric 'benefactors'" at our meeting on Tuesday evening, October 28th; Barrytown will be remembered on Tuesday evening, November 18th with J. Winthrop Aldrich as moderator.]

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A LOCAL MAN'S DIARY OF THE CIVIL WAR

Over a period of months in 1932, the local newspaper, the *Advertiser*, ran the diary of Peter A. Funk, a soldier in Company F of the 150th NY Volunteers. A 19-year-old Rhinebeck man,

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Funk served in the same company with Thomas Fraleigh, Nelson Hermance, Richard Loun, Ezra, Peter and William Stickel, and 25 other men from Red Hook, most in their late teens or twenties. Burton G. Coon is credited with preparing the diary for publication in the *Advertiser*. Our copy was donated to the Society by Mike Peets, Secretary of the 150th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which will reenact an encampment at the Elmendorph Inn the weekend of September 20th.

Funk's diary begins with his enlistment on August 28, 1862 and ends on the day he was mustered out, June 8, 1865. We have space for only a few days, leading up to the battle at Gettysburg:

June 26, 1863, we got orders about 9 a.m. to be ready to march in fifteen minutes. We marched about four miles and were joined by the 1st Maryland Regiment of the Potomac Home Brigade, and then took up our line of march for Gettysburg. We went 12 miles and then encamped for the night at Elicot's Mills. During the night we had a shower and in the morning we started out of camp wet to the hide, and marched 19 miles and encamped for the night at Poplar Springs. The next day we went the same distance and encamped at Monoxie Bridge . . . I had given out about five miles from this place, my feet being so blistered that I could not step without great pain. I got in camp about two hours after the rest of the regiment. . . .

[Four days later] . . . In the morning we marched about three miles when we halted and were ordered to throw our knapsacks down by the side of the road. This we did, and away we went as fast as we could walk. The distant booming of cannon now reached our ears, which sounded nearer and nearer as we approached and told plainly of the harvest death was reaping on that never-to-be-forgotten field of slaughter. About 11 a.m. we reached the field of battle, but being very tired we were taken about to the rear and ordered to rest in a field of rye stubble back of Cemetery Hill.

We lay there about two hours when over came a 12 lb. shell, screeching all kinds of murder as it came. This was the first the regiment ever heard, and to see the dodging and running would have made an old soldier laugh in spite of himself. About sundown we saw an aide coming as fast as his horse could come. He rode up to Gen. Lockwood, who had command of us and instantly we got the order to fall in. We were soon in where the fighting was heaviest. Wounded men were running to the rear and would tell us we were being whipped. Others would say, "Give them hell, boys--if you don't they will give you," and so forth. We learned that the rebels were trying to get possession of two guns of which the horses were killed, and they were pressing our men so hard that we could not get them away. We were formed into line of battle with the 1st Maryland Regiment in advance and with three cheers dashed on to the rebel lines, which at the sight of fresh troops fell back in confusion.

Our Lieut. Col. with a detail drew off the two pieces of cannon and we then fell back to our former position, our places being taken by old troops for the night. The ground over which we passed in our advance was strewn with the dead and dying. The scene was heartrending--to see those marble-like faces, and hear the piteous groans and feeble voices that would call, "Do not step on me"--or "Give me water," as you approached. It was a scene never to be forgotten. . . .

For two days the battle continued with our men and the 1st Maryland Regiment taking turns on the front line. A rebel breastwork was taken and held. . . . about 10 o'clock the rain came down in torrents and there we lay in an open field without a tent or blanket to shelter us, for they had been left in our knapsacks. Before morning we had to get rails to lay on to keep out of the mud and water. It was at this time that I contracted rheumatism from which I have not been free since. There was little firing in the morning, and about noon we heard that the rebels had left and were on their way to Williamsport. Our loss was 8 killed and 40 wounded.

(150TH REGIMENT OF NEW YORK STATE VOLUNTEER INFANTRY)



NEW MEMBERS AND DONATIONS

New Members:

Margaret & Lou Ahlback
 Capt. Thomas Brener
 Thomas & Lydia Cordier
 Howard & Louise Delanoy
 Mildred & Louis Hubach
 Janeth Thoron

New Life Members:

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Hubach
 Walter D. & Jean R. Moore
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Townsend
 Glen Waggoner & Sharon McIntosh

Donations:

Dr. Kenneth & Marcie Appell
 Richard & Carleen Baright
 Jean & Fergus Bordewich - Double
 Matching Grant - *Readers Digest*
 Shirley Brown
 Carrie Ellen Burger
 John Jay Chapman
 Mirko Gabler

Lucy Hayden, Nigel & Harry Taylor
 Elsa Kreider - in memory of John Kreider
 Roger & Bernice Leonard
 Margi Riker
 Emily & Jay Trapp
 Betty Mae & Henry VanParys -
 IBM Matching Grant
 Dr. Fred S. Zipser

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REMINDER: The Seventh Annual **Friends of Elmendorph Art Show** will be held Columbus Day Weekend. The opening reception will be Friday, Oct. 10, from 7-9 p.m.; the show will be open for viewing on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 12 from 1 p.m.-4p.m.; and Monday, Oct. 13, noon-3 p.m. More than 50 artists are expected to exhibit original works, including oils, watercolors, pastels and photographs. All works will be for sale with a portion of the proceeds to go toward the restoration of the second floor of the Inn. Theresa Docherty is the show coordinator. For more information or to volunteer, please call (914) 758-5887.

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Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook FALL PROGRAM - 1997

All programs will be held at the Elmendorph Inn

Saturday, September 20, 2 p.m. "The 'Dutchess County Regiment' in the Civil War," a lecture presented as part of an all-day encampment of the 150th Regiment New York State Volunteer Infantry on the grounds and within the Elmendorph Inn.

Tuesday, October 28, 7:30 p.m. "The dePeysters of Tivoli." Richard Wiles will tell us about Tivoli's eccentric "benefactors."

Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m. "Remembering Barrytown," moderated by J. Winthrop Aldrich. The fourth in our series of recollections by long-time residents.

Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m. The Historical Society's Annual Holiday Party for children and adults, this year featuring a Hanukkah Celebration with Rabbi Joanna Katz.